Faculty

■ **Governor James H. Douglas** has been serving the people of Vermont for more than 35 years. He was elected to the Vermont House of Representatives after graduating from Middlebury College in 1972. He became assistant majority leader in his second term and majority leader in his third term, at the age of 25. Governor Douglas retired from the legislature in 1979 to become a top aide to Governor Richard Snelling.

Governor Douglas was elected secretary of state in 1980, a post he held for 12 years. He was then elected state treasurer in 1994, where he served the people of Vermont for eight years. As treasurer, he implemented programs that returned millions of dollars in assets to their rightful owners, and under his leadership, Vermont's bond rating came to be the best in New England and one of the best in the nation. He successfully sought the office of governor in 2002 and was inaugurated as the 80th governor of Vermont on January 9, 2003. He was re-elected in 2004, 2006, and 2008.

■ **Miguel Fernández** holds both a BA and an MA from Middlebury College. He received his PhD from Johns Hopkins University and has been on the faculty at Middlebury College since 1995. He has served as director of the Latin American studies program and is currently chair of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. His teaching and research interests focus on 19th- and 20th-century Latin American literature and cultures. He is codirector and editor of *Decimonónica*, a journal of 19th-century Hispanic cultural production.

■ **Matthew Kimble** is an associate professor in the psychology department at Middlebury College, where he teaches courses in Introductory Psychology, Psychological Disorders, Psychological Trauma, and Happiness. He received his doctorate at Boston University and completed his postdoctoral training in psychological trauma at the National Center for PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder), located at the VA Medical Center in Boston. His primary research interests focus on how PTSD affects attentional processes and expectancies in trauma survivors. Professor Kimble is an author or coauthor of 23 articles and has received grants from the National Institute of Mental Health to support his work. Professor Kimble has taught a first-year seminar on happiness and meaningfulness and has cotaught a similar course with a philosopher during winter term.

■ **Cynthia Packert** is professor of the history of art and architecture. She received her PhD from Harvard University and has been teaching at Middlebury College since 1989. She is the author of *The Sculpture of Medieval Rajasthan* (E.J. Brill, 1997) and several articles on Indian art and iconography. Her current research focuses on the visual culture of Hinduism, and she has recently published *The Art of Loving Krishna: Ornamentation and Devotion* (Indiana University Press, 2010). She also teaches courses on all aspects of Asian art. Professor Packert has just returned from her sabbatical research on new Hindu temples in India and the North American diaspora. She is also working on a museum exhibition project entitled *Global Ganesha*. She will be going to India right after Alumni College to study the annual Ganesh Chaturthi festival in Mumbai and Hyderabad.

■ **Peter Ryan** is professor of geology and environmental studies at Middlebury College, where he teaches courses in hydrology, environmental geochemistry, environmental science, and sedimentary geology. He received his doctorate at Dartmouth College in 1994, was director of environmental studies from 2003 to 2007, and is currently chair of the geology department. His research interests can be divided into two main areas: The first is a long-running collaboration with the Vermont Geological Survey designed to understand geological controls on groundwater quality, particularly the natural occurrence of arsenic and uranium in Vermont's rural groundwater resource. An invited article on arsenic that featured five Middlebury student coauthors was published in January in the journal *Applied Geochemistry*. His other main area of research is focused on soils and river sediments in the tropics and seeks to answer questions related to soil evolution, nutrient depletion, and geological applications of soil geochemical analysis.

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Alumni and Parent Programs
Alumni College XXXVI
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Photos by Ed Brown

Alumni College at Bread Loaf, 2011

The fresh air of the Bread Loaf mountain campus and the heady exploration of important themes and ideas ensure that Alumni College is always invigorating to the mind and the body. This year's enticing lineup of courses ranges from the local to the global in scope with each one tackling subjects of special significance. One course, led by the recent governor of the state of Vermont, explores the distinctive politics of the Green Mountain State and the challenges of governing. Another focuses on the remarkable geological landscape of Vermont. The rich culture of the the most populous democracy on earth is the subject of a class, while another interrogates dramatic comedies in the expansive Spanish-speaking world (and will be taught in Spanish). Finally, Alumni College participants will have the chance to investigate the ever important—and often elusive—theme of happiness.

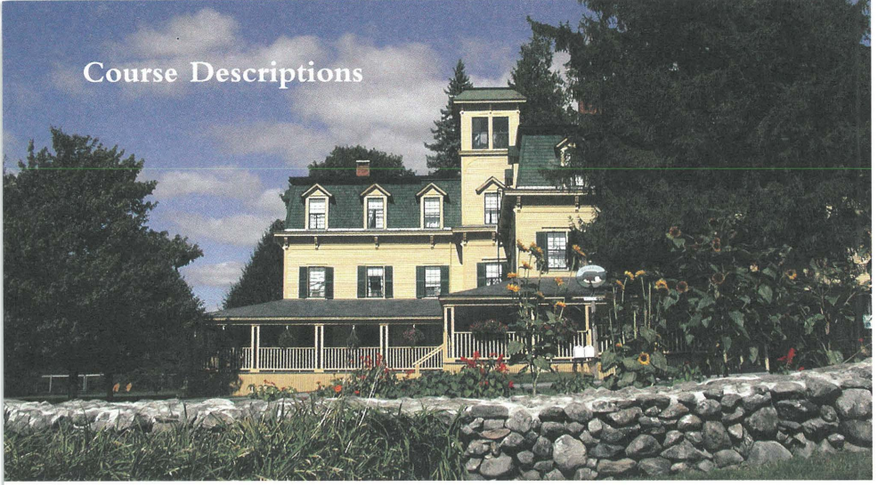
Middlebury

Join alumni, parents, and friends for an extraordinary learning experience in the beautiful Green Mountains

Endless Learning

Alumni College XXXVI

August 25–28, 2011



■ 1. The Art of Governing: A View from the Vermont State House

James H. Douglas '72, Former Governor of Vermont

The goal of the course is to develop a sense of Vermont's political landscape and the operation of its state government. Vermont is a unique state in many ways, which we'll explore. We'll try to understand how some of its traditions came about, how it differs from other places, and the policy areas in which it has led the nation. We'll read *The Vermont Political Tradition* by William Doyle, a professor at Johnson State College and the state's longest serving legislator. It gives a quick overview of Vermont's political history through the 2008 election. We'll look at how Vermont became a state, the early Federalist-Jeffersonian rivalry, the ascendancy of the Republican Party, and its recent decline. We'll visit the Vermont State House to see the intimate structure in which the people's business is conducted. I'll offer my insights on developments since leaving campus 39 years ago and suggest some challenges facing public officials in these difficult times. I'll tell a few war stories too!

■ 2. *Comedias dramáticas del mundo hispano* Dramatic Comedies of the Spanish-Speaking World

Miguel Fernández '85, Professor of Spanish

In this course, we will explore the rich theater tradition in the Spanish-speaking world through the study of the comic tradition. We will begin with a discussion of comedy as a genre, and then we will read a tragicomedy from the Spanish Golden Age, a Mexican feminist farce, a Chilean example of theater of the absurd, and a Spanish romantic comedy. Readings, analysis, and discussions will center on the topics of theme, technique, historical aspects, and the political context of each play. We will address the representation of race, lineage, gender roles, and performance in these works, as well as their reception in Spain and Latin America. This course will be conducted entirely in Spanish.

■ 3. Vermont's Geological Landscape: From Continental Collisions and Mountain Building to Groundwater and Streams

Peter Ryan, Professor of Geology

The wonderfully complex geological history of Vermont reveals itself in the hills and valleys of our landscape; in the locations of rivers and lakes; in its rich array of natural resources; in the relationships among igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary rocks that formed hundreds of millions of years ago; and in the deposits left when glaciers receded from the landscape a mere 15,000 years ago. The geology of Vermont also affects society in important ways; for example, recent research indicates that certain rock formations are known to yield groundwater with naturally elevated amounts of toxic trace elements. In this course, we will examine the geological evolution of Vermont, from tropical sandy beaches to explosive volcanic arcs to glacial landscape; in the process, we will apply this knowledge to issues at the intersection of geology and modern society.

■ 4. Incredible India: Modernity, Myths, and Media

Cynthia Packert, Professor of the History of Art and Architecture

For anyone trying to come to terms with India's ancient history and incredibly rich contemporary culture, some understanding of Hinduism is essential. Hinduism's beliefs and values have guided much of India's culture for thousands of years and continue to be relevant today. This course will introduce you to the mythology and imagery of some of Hinduism's most important divinities: the elephant-headed Ganesha, the epic hero Rama, and the blue-skinned lover and wise counselor Krishna, and it will explain how and why they are so meaningful for contemporary believers. We will also learn about the political uses to which these deities have been put and discuss the implications for contemporary society and community identity. Their significance for India's religious and political past and present will be presented through a colorful and dazzling variety of media: sculpture, painting, music, song, dance, drama, film (including Bollywood), the Internet, and popular visual culture.

■ 5. Happiness

Matthew Kimble, Assistant Professor of Psychology

This course will explore what the discipline of psychology can teach us about living meaningful and fulfilling lives. We will start with a discussion about how psychology can contribute to this age-old question and then follow with a look at current theorists and empiricists who contribute to our understanding of "happiness," "subjective well-being," and "meaningfulness." The course will address questions such as: Can money buy happiness? Can one grow from suffering? Is it possible to make oneself happier, and if so what can one *do*? Readings will include work by Marty Seligman, Tim Kasser, Jonathan Haidt, Ed Diener, and Sonja Lyubomirsky.

REGISTRATION FORM

Alumni College XXXVI / August 25–28, 2011

Name: _____

Class: _____ Number of Alumni Colleges you have attended: _____

Spouse/Guest: _____

Address: _____

_____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

My first choice is #_____

Spouse/guest first choice is #_____

Special housing needs? _____

■ **Fees** (includes tuition, meals, and evening entertainment at Bread Loaf)
$525 per person (with lodging)
$425 per person (without lodging)
$ 45 per person (additional lodging Wednesday, August 24), includes breakfast

Books and articles must be obtained separately. Information regarding course materials will be provided after registration. Although Bread Loaf has wireless Internet service, there is no cell phone coverage at this time.

■ **Method of payment**

❒ Check payable to "Middlebury College" enclosed

❒ Visa ❒ MasterCard Total: $_____

❒ Online at: http://www.middlebury.edu/alumni/events/alumnicollege2011

Card number: _____

Expiration date: _____ CSV# _____
3-digit code on back

Cardholder's name: _____

Cardholder's signature: _____

Street address_____ Zip: _____

■ **Please send form with payment to:**
Alumni and Parent Programs Office
McKinley House
5340 Middlebury College
Middlebury, Vermont 05753

For more information, please contact Glenna Emilo in the Alumni and Parent Programs Office at 802.443.5335 or emilo@middlebury.edu.